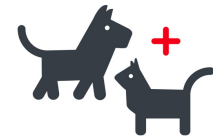


Meeting Your Dog's Behavioural Needs



**Maggie's
Rescue**

“But, my dog has a big backyard.”

We hear this a lot! A large physical space is a great start, but it's the quality of the space that's important. How you use the space (large or small) to keep your dog mentally occupied with healthy behaviours is incredibly critical.

Dogs require physical, social, and mental stimulation every day to meet their behavioural needs. It's important to meet your dog's needs to ensure they have the best welfare possible. You owe it to your dog to provide the best environment to live in. Dogs are essentially toddlers who never grow up, which means they rely 100% on us to provide for their needs. Step up for your dog's sake and have fun doing it!

What can I do to meet my dog's needs?

Social Enrichment

- Allow your dog inside when you are home
- Give your dog something to chew/lick when inside (ensure it is a calm activity)
- Play with your dog at home, preferably outside
- Use dog gates to control the rooms your dog is in, if easier to manage
- Visit a doggy day-care
- Organise play/dates with other dog friends
- Grooming (if you both enjoy it)
- Massage (if you both enjoy it)

Physical Enrichment

- Daily play sessions that your dog enjoys
- Daily walks in different places - allow your dog to sniff and explore with their nose
- Games:
 - Nose works
 - Frisbee/ball
 - Chasey
- Trick training
- Sport training
 - Agility
 - Flyball
 - Dancing
 - Earth dog

Mental Enrichment

- Food Dispensing toys
 - Kongs
 - Treatballs
 - Homemade feeders
 - Ice blocks
- Treasure hunt
 - Scattering/hiding food
 - Snuffle mats
 - Scent/nose works
- Raw marrow bones
- Chew toys (long lasting)
- Sandpits / wading pools
- Organise play/dates with other dog friends
- Puzzles / toys



TIP: Rotate toys every couple of days to maintain motivation and interest